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AP photo

Testimony: Vance Lattime looks at murder weapon in court yesterday.

Smart asked teen killers how to react, youth says

By Linda Bean
Eagle-Tribune Writer

EXETER, N.H. — The day her husband was shot and killed, Pamela Smart asked his murderers how she should behave when she saw his dead body.



**Smart
Trial**
Day 3

"She had asked if she should scream," Vance Lattime testified. "We all told her she should just act normal."

Mr. Lattime, 18, Seabrook, N.H., drove the car that carried Gregory Smart's killers to Derry, N.H., on May 1.

Prosecutors say Mr. Smart's pretty, young wife, Pamela, 23, planned the murder while having an affair with 16-year-old William Flynn, the triggerman.

In less than an hour of testimony, Mr. Lattime told the jury he and his friends — Mr. Flynn, Patrick "Pete" Randall, 17; and Raymond Fowler, 19 — laughed and sang "Shoo Fly Pie" on their way home from the murder and described how he was among the students chosen to represent Winn-

cunnet High at Gregory Smart's wake.

ON THE DAY of the May 1 murder, he said, he took his father's .38-caliber Charter Arms revolver from a dresser drawer.

Although the boys planned to stab Mr. Smart, he said, they told Mrs. Smart they intended to use the gun.

"Pam had said she did not want the knife used because of the mess and the blood on the furniture," Mr. Lattime said. "She had white leather furniture and stuff."

IN THE AFTERNOON, hours before Mr. Smart died, his wife accompanied the boys to Haverhill to pick up their getaway car — Mr. Lattime's grandmother's Chevrolet Impala.

On the way, while she lounged in the back with Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Smart reviewed the murder plot, Mr. Lattime said. She "seemed a little bit nervous, but we all were."

Mrs. Smart also renewed her

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Driver of getaway car teased triggerman about latex gloves

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demand that the boys use a gun instead of a knife. "Bill calmed her down," Mr. Lattime said.

LATER, with a full tank of gas in their getaway car and Mr. Fowler on board, the boys left for Derry.

Mr. Flynn and Mr. Randall planned to ambush Mr. Smart when he came through the front door of his Misty Morning Drive townhouse.

On the way, Mr. Lattime said, they bickered over the route and teased Mr. Flynn about his cheap latex gloves.

Someone who wanted to commit a murder should "have a better set of gloves than them," Mr. Lattime said.

When they arrived in Derry, the boys parked at Hood Plaza, bought tape to wrap around their fingers and used the restroom at the pizza

place.

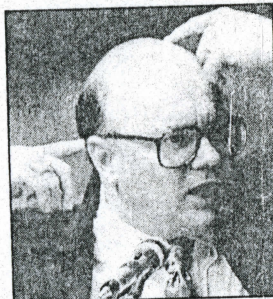
"Pete and Bill are getting real, real jumpy," Mr. Lattime said.

AT DUSK, while Mr. Lattime and Mr. Fowler waited at the plaza in the car, Mr. Flynn and Mr. Randall entered the Smart's home through the bulkhead door and ransacked the condominium.

Mr. Randall, who testified Tuesday, said they executed Mr. Smart when he came home from work, grabbed a bag of jewelry and ran.

Mr. Fowler spotted the pair as they crossed an open field, Mr. Lattime said. "They were running real fast."

When they got to the car and said Mr. Smart was dead, "I



Bullet path: Dr. Fossum thought they were joking," Mr. Lattime said. "I was saying 'yeah, sure.'

"Then Bill said he had killed someone. By the tone of his voice, I believed him," Mr. Lattime said.

ON THE WAY HOME, the keyed-up quartet sang silly songs and discarded the disguises worn by Mr. Flynn and Mr. Lattime.

"Bill was laughing. He was real nervous," Mr. Lattime said. "Pete told us to shut up."

Back in Seabrook, the boys split up the jewelry and compact discs taken from the Smart home. Mr. Lattime said dropped everyone else off and then went home to go to bed.

THE NEXT DAY, a guidance counselor who knew that Mr. Lattime and Mr. Flynn had worked with Mrs. Smart on school projects

called them out of science class.

The woman told them that Mrs. Smart's husband had been killed.

"Me and Bill acted shocked," he said.

The counselor also drove him to Mr. Smart's wake.

"Me and Bill," he said.

Mr. Lattime was the second boy to testify at Mrs. Smart's trial.

His testimony followed several hours of technical evidence from state police officers and forensic experts.

William and Judith Smart, Gregory Smart's parents, left the courtroom before Dr. Roger Fossum, the state's chief medical examiner, described the exact nature of the wound that killed their

son.

Dr. Fossum testified the .38-caliber hollow-point bullet entered Mr. Smart's skull above the left ear canal. It traveled through his brain, punched a "small defect" in the rear wall of Mr. Smart's skull, ricocheted off the bone and lodged in his brain, Dr. Fossum said.

Mr. Lattime's story also followed testimony from his father Vance Lattime Sr., and the cross-examination of Mr. Randall, who testified Tuesday about his role in the murder.

Defense lawyer Mark Sisti, his voice hard and his questions barbed, demanded answers from Mr. Randall for just over 60 minutes.